

Scholar in the Park

The Friends of Minute Man National Park, an organization dedicated to protecting and preserving Minute Man National Historical Park, will sponsor a scholar to research the lives of “Patriots of Color,” Massachusetts slaves and former slaves who fought during the American Revolution, beginning with the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. Among other uses by the park, the resulting research will support the creation by a teacher of a lesson plan about the “Patriots of Color.”

Minute Man National Historical Park

In 1959 the United States Congress created Minute Man National Historical Park to commemorate the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, the opening of the American Revolutionary War. The park is a unit of the National Park Service. It is located in the towns of Concord, Lexington and Lincoln, Massachusetts. Over one million visitors come to the park each year. The park’s resources include historic structures, cultural landscapes, archeological sites and a collection of museum artifacts. Most notable of its resources are the North Bridge and The Minute Man, the 1875 sculpture created by the artist, Daniel Chester French.

Scope of Research

The research undertaken about the lives of the “Patriots of Color” will be guided by the following questions.

1. How many men of color from Massachusetts who fought in the American Revolution were free?
2. How many men of color from Massachusetts who fought in the American Revolution were enslaved?
3. Were those who were enslaved during their enlistment emancipated because of their military service?
4. If men were emancipated because of their military service, was the emancipation immediate or at the end of their enlistment?
5. What would enslaved men hope to gain by fighting on the side of the revolutionaries for a liberty that was not conceived to include them?
6. Did any men of color from Massachusetts fight with the British?
7. What would enslaved men hope to gain by fighting for the British, a distant imperial power conceived by the revolutionaries to be enslaving all colonists?

8. Examine how changing Massachusetts laws concerning the enlistment in the military of men of color affected their opportunities to serve during the Revolution as well as their chances of being emancipated, if enslaved.
9. Did slave owners use their slaves as substitutes for their own military service?
10. Were the recruitment bounties different for men of color than for whites?
11. Did slave owners enlist their slaves in order to obtain the bounties?
12. How many men of color served on April 19 and from which towns? Were they slaves or free men?
13. What effects did revolutionary service on either side, revolutionary or British, have on the subsequent lives of men of color who were enslaved at the outset of the conflict, and the subsequent lives of their families?

The written report for the research undertaken about the lives of the “Patriots of Color” will conform to the following specifications.

1. Write short essays that answer the proposed research questions. When appropriate an essay can combine the answers to more than one question, as long as all questions are fully answered.
2. If a question cannot be answered, a short explanation of the research methods undertaken and sources consulted will be provided.
3. All essays and explanations will be footnoted. The footnotes will follow the format provided by the most recent edition of *A Manual of Style* by the University of Chicago Press.
4. A bibliography combining all of the resources consulted for all of the essays and explanations will be provided. The bibliographic citations will follow the format provided by the most recent edition of *A Manual of Style* by the University of Chicago Press.
5. The bibliography will also include a list of all repositories consulted with a description of the research value of the repository for the proposed project.

Applicant Qualifications

- B. A., M.A. preferred, in American History
- Specialization in the history of the American Revolution and/or the history of minorities in early America
- Knowledge of Massachusetts history immediately before, during and immediately after the American Revolution
- Experience completing historical research for a non-academic purpose
- Familiarity with research repositories appropriate for the proposed research project
- Knowledge of research sources appropriate for the proposed research project
- Excellent research techniques as demonstrated by recent research projects
- Excellent writing skills as demonstrated by recent research projects
- Ability to work independently and think creatively when interpreting research sources
- Ability to complete the proposed research project on schedule

Funding

The applicant who is chosen as the scholar in the park will receive \$2,000 from the Friends of Minute Man National Park to research and create a report about the lives of the “Patriots of Color” as described in the section, Scope of Research. Any travel, photocopying or other costs incurred during the project must be paid by the researcher. Partial payment will be made to the scholar in the park after receipt of fifty percent of the report. Final payment will be made when the complete report is submitted. **The project must be completed by August 30, 2014.**

Application Process

To apply: send a resume, including two references, and a statement of interest in the project in the form of a cover letter by e-mail to Leslie.Obleschuk@nps.gov. The resume should demonstrate that the applicant can meet the qualifications outlined in the section, Applicant Qualifications. **May 30, 2014 is the deadline for receiving resumes.** Questions may also be addressed to Leslie Obleschuk, Chief of Interpretation and Education of Minute Man National Historical Park.